(a) what is the procedure accord, ing to which persons are identified in different States/Union Territories for the supply of specially subsidised ric$_e$ and wheat and how much quan tum of subsidy is decided, keeping in view the demand of poverty of the family; and

(b) what measures ar$_e$ proposed to be taken to ensure that the ignorant, in far-off hilly ^tribal areas are not' left out?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The entire population living in the Integrated Tribal Development Project areas [an]d the tribal majority States/Union Territories of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadwcep is covered under the schem$_e$ for supply of rice and wheat at specially subsidized prices.

Under the scheme, common rice is distributed at Rs. 1-85 per kg. and wheat at. Rs. 1.50 per kg. The retail distribution in the areas covered is arranged by the respective State Governments/Union Territories through their public distribution, system outlets.

Shortage of storing capacity of food, grain procured) by the Government

•311; SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Will th$_e$ Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of storage capacity for the storing of procured foodgrains particularly in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh resulting in widespread damage to these grains;

(b) if so. what is the estimated loss of foodgrains du$_e$ to these poor conditions of storage;

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to meet this shortage; and

(d) whether Government have considered the efficacy of making silos to store the-foodgrains as is done in many western countries and if so, what steps ar$_e$ being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIWL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The overall covered storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India, State Governments and their agencies as also the storage capacity in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is at present not sufficient to store foodgrain stock with them. The Corporation has not received any report of wide-spread damage to food-grains on account of shortage of covered storage capacity. Adequate precautions are taken to protect the foodgrain stock held under cover-and.plinth (CAP) arrangement.

(b) It is not possible to estimate foodgrain losses due to shortage of covered storage capacity.

(c) Following steps ar$_e$ being taken to augment the availability of sto rage capacity for foodgrains—(i) construction of covered storage capa city of 40.0 lakh tonnes during the Seventh Plan period by Food Corpo ration of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations; (ii) hiring of addition al storage capacity from various sources by Food Corporation of India; and (iii) improving utilisation of available storage capacity by in creasing stack height. Besides, ar rangements have been mad^ to keep the stocks under cover-and-plinth (CAP) arrangement with adequate precautions to protect them against losses.

(d) The proposal for construction of silos has not been considered feasible mainly on account of higher cost of construction and resource con straint. The Food Corporation of India is, however, examining the fea • sibility of silo construction for export of foodgrains.